

LAUDONNIERE'S ACCOUNT OF THE 1564 VOYAGE

Rene de Goulaine de Laudonniere was the leader of the voyage that established the settlement at la Caroline. Read the following excerpt from his journal of 1564 and then answer the questions below. As you are reading, be sure to use your memories of your visit to Fort Caroline to help imagine the places he might be describing.



Now I had decided to investigate the interesting features of the mountain. I therefore climbed straight to the summit of it, where we found nothing but cedars, palm trees and laurels of such a superb odour that balm was nothing in comparison. The trees everywhere were overgrown by vines bearing grapes in such quantity that the amount would suffice to make the place habitable. Besides this fertility for wine-growing, cinchona was twisted around the shrubs in great quantity. As for the beauty of the place, the sea is plain to be seen, and more than six leagues around the Belle River the plains are all cut up into isles and islets by interlacing streams. In short, the place is so pleasant that melancholics would be forced to change their character there!

- Excerpt taken from: *A Foothold in Florida* by Sarah Lawson, 1992

1. What is the mountain Laudonniere is describing?
2. What sea is he seeing from the top of the mountain?
3. Which river do you think is the Belle River? (Belle in French means beautiful.)
4. Write a three to five sentence paragraph describing the beautiful natural world you saw while visiting Fort Caroline National Memorial.